

المرحلة الثالثة

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## Baghdad in Islamic History

### The Capital of the Muslim World:

In about 762 CE, the Abbasid dynasty took over the rule of the vast Muslim world and moved the capital to the newly- founded city of Baghdad. Over the next five centuries, the city would become the world's center of education and culture. This period of glory has become known as the "Golden Age" of Islamic civilization, a time when scholars of the Muslim world made important contributions in both the sciences and humanities: medicine, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, literature,

and more. Under Abbasid rule, Baghdad became a city of museums, hospitals, libraries, and mosques.

Most of the famous Muslim scholars from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries had their educational roots in Baghdad. One of the most famous centers of learning was Bayt al-Hikmah (The House of Wisdom), which attracted scholars from all over the world, from many cultures and religions. Here, Teachers and students worked together to translate Greek manuscripts, preserving them for all time. They studied the works of Aristotle, Plato, Hippocrates, Euclid, and Pythagoras. The House of Wisdom was home to, among others, the most famous mathematician of the time Al-Khwarizmi, the “father” of algebra (this branch

of mathematics is actually named after his book “Kitab al-Jabr”).

While Europe festered in the Dark Ages, Baghdad was thus at the heart of a vibrant and diverse civilization. It was known as the world’s richest and most intellectual city of the time and was second in size only to Constantinople.